GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3020
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2010
PRODUCTION OF DARJEELING TEA
Sugavanam Shri E.G.

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of tea including Darjeeling Tea has drastically reduced in the last few years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether steps have been taken to improve the production of the same and shift to the organic methods of production; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

(a) and (b): No, Madam. There has not been any drastic reduction in production of tea including Darjeeling Tea during last three years as indicated below:

Year	Production of Darjeeling Tea in million kgs.	Total production including Darjeeling Tea in million kgs.
2007	10.01	986.43
2008	11.58	980.82
2009	10.74	979.00

(c) and (d): Government of India through Tea Board is taking various steps to increase the production of tea which include new planting, replanting & rejuvenation, irrigation & drainage, quality upgradation, research & development, training and assistance to small tea growers, etc.

Around 10 million kgs. of organic tea is being produced per annum. Many tea gardens particularly in Darjeeling (47 out of 87) have converted to organic tea cultivation. A pilot project has been initiated in 2008 to evolve a standard package of practices backed by Research Institutes and understanding the market potential for organic tea. Under the project, three model farms, each of 100 hectare size, have been established in Assam, West Bengal and Kerala.